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SERIAL NUMBER FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 04/18/96 CLENTIN-MILLET XI/P02956US0 EXAMINER 18N2/0514 THOMAS F SALAS ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER LARSON & TAYLOR 727 23RD STREET SOUTH: ARLINGION VA 22202 1810 DATE MAILED: 05/14/97 This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application. COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on_ A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire _ days from the date of this letter. _ month(s), Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133 Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION: Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.
 X NOTICE TO COMPLY SEQUENCE PUES. 1. Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449. 5. Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474. Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION are pending in the application. 79-82 are withdrawn from consideration. Of the above, claims ____ 4. 🔀 Claims ______ 5 4 - 78 ______ are rejected. 5. Claims 6. 🗵 Claims ______ are subject to restriction or election requirement. 7. X This application has been filed with informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes. 8. Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action. 9. The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _ _. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948). 10. The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _ _. has (have) been approved by the examiner; disapproved by the examiner (see explanation). 11. The proposed drawing correction, filed _ ___, has been ___ approved; ___ disapproved (see explanation). 12. Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has been received been received been filled in parent application, serial no. <u>PCTIFP35(P36)</u>; filled on <u>5-30-95</u>. 13. Since this application apppears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213. 14. Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

PTOL-326 (Rev. 2/93)

1. The preliminary amendments filed 18 April 1996, Paper No. 6, and filed 7 February 1997, Paper No. 13, have been entered.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in response to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 54-78, drawn to a polypeptide, an isolated DNA fragment, and a pharmaceutical composition of polypeptide.

Group II, claim(s) 79-82, drawn to monoclonal antibody and a pharmaceutical composition of antibody.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons.

Group I is drawn to a polypeptide, an isolated DNA

fragment, and a pharmaceutical composition of polypeptide.

Pursuant 37 CFR 1.475(d), these claims are considered by the

ISA/US to constitute the main invention, and none of the related

group II correspond to the main invention.

The products of Groups I and II do not share the same special technical features because any one of the product of group I and II are structurally and functionally different from each other and each defines a separate invention over the art.

During a telephone conversation with Attorney Thomas Sarro on 29 April 1997 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of I, claims 54-78. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in responding to this Office action. Claims 79-82 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37

CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(h).

Priority

3. If applicant desires priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 based upon a previously filed copending application, specific reference to the earlier filed application must be made in the instant application. This should appear as the first sentence of the specification following the title, preferably as a separate paragraph. The status of non-provisional application(s) (whether patented or abandoned) should also be included. If a parent application has become a patent, the expression "now Patent No._______" should follow the filing date of the parent application. If a parent application has become abandoned, the expression "now abandoned" should follow the filing date of the parent application.

Specification

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the title of the invention, each of the lettered items should be preceded by the headings indicated below.

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-References to Related Applications (if any).
- © Statement as to rights to inventions made under Federally-sponsored research and development (if any).
- (d) Background of the invention.
 - 1. Field of the Invention.
 - Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97-1.99.
- (e) Summary of the Invention.
- (f) Brief Description of the Drawing.
- (g) Description of the Preferred Embodiment(s).
- (h) Claim(s).
- (I) Abstract of the Disclosure.

The heading for the Brief Description of the Drawing is missing from page 19, line 10.

Sequence Rules 37 CFR 1.821-1.825

5. This application contains sequence disclosures that are encompassed by the definitions for nucleotide and/or amino acid sequences set forth in 37 CFR 1.821(a)(1) and (a)(2). However, this application fails to comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.821 through 1.825 for the reason(s) set forth on the attached Notice To Comply With Requirements For Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures.

Page 30, lines 36 and 39 disclose an amino acid sequence of peptides which must comply with the sequence rules.

Applicant is given the period set for response to this

Office action from the date of this letter within which to comply
with the sequence rules, 37 CFR 1.821 - 1.825. Failure to comply
with these requirements will result in ABANDONMENT of the
application under 37 CFR 1.821(g). Extensions of time may be
obtained by filing a petition accompanied by the extension fee
under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no case may an
applicant extend the period for response beyond the SIX MONTH
statutory period. Direct the response to the undersigned.
Applicant is requested to return a copy of the attached Notice to
Comply with the response.

6. The specification is objected to because it does not comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.821 (d) which requires a reference to a particular sequence identifier (SEQ ID NO:) be made in the specification wherever a reference is made to that sequence. See M.P.E.P. 2422.04.

The legends for figures 1-4 and 8-10 (on page 19, lines 12-35) must identify each of the sequences disclosed in figures 1-4 and 8-10 with the individual SEQ ID NO:. It is not sufficient to identity the sequence as a fragment of larger SEQ ID NO: because

each sequence disclosure has its own SEQ ID NO:. Pages 20, 24, and 30 also disclose sequences which must be identified by its SEQ ID NO:. Any references to sequences in the specification or the claims must be identified with an appropriate SEQ ID NO:.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. Claims 54-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a Tbp2 receptor of SEQ ID NO:2 and 4, does not reasonably provide the full scope of enablement for derivatives of Tbp2 receptor. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Claims 54-78 encompass Tbp2 derivatives and variants because of the recitation of an "derived". However, the specification fails to teach how to use the derivatives of Tbp2 because the claims are single means claims. A single means claim is a claim which depend on a recited property, where the claim covers every conceivable structure (means) for achieving the stated property (result) while the specification discloses at most only those

known to the inventor (MPEP 2164.08(a)). The specification defines on page 7, lines 36-39, that the term "sequence which is derived from another sequence" to mean a sequence originating form this other sequence by the use of a mental process. the claims encompass all variants of Tbp2 based on sequence comparisons and mental processes. One skilled in the art cannot predict whether such polypeptides would have any relationship to the TBP2 polypeptide. The state of the art is such that one skilled in the art cannot predict the tertiary structure of protein based on the primary amino acid sequence (Bowie et al.(S)). Thus, it would require undue experimentation to make and use variants with amino acid substitutions in the Tbp2 receptor because one skilled in the art could not predict the effect of the changes due to substitutions on the tertiary structure of the Tbp2 receptor which is necessary to determine if the protein is functional. Furthermore, changes tertiary structure will affect any antibody based on the original epitope of the natural Tbp2 protein found in the bacteria and if the antibody does not recognize the natural Tbp2 protein in the bacteria it cannot be used in diagnostic assay or for vaccination. It would require empirical determination to

determine the all variant combinations which are functional because one skilled in the art cannot predict the which combination of variants of Tbp2 receptor would result in a functional polypeptide. Guidance and working examples directed to the Tbp2 receptor in the specification are not predictive of using any variants or derivatives of Tbp2 receptor because the changes in tertiary structure affects the protein function in an unpredictable manner. Therefore, in view of the large extent and unpredictable nature of the experimentation which would be involved, one skilled in the art could not make and use the full scope of the invention as claimed without undue experimentation.

8. Claims 54-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

A deposit of the Neisseria meningitidis strain IM2169 or IM2394 is required to enable the invention of claims 54-78. This determination has been made because the claimed strains or vectors have not been fully disclosed or the materials required

to isolate the claimed strains have not been shown to be publicly known and fully available. The specification does not teach how to make the disclosed strains, in a sufficient manner to practice the invention because one skilled in the art could not determine the exact materials necessary to construct the strains. It would require undue experimentation to determine the exact materials necessary to construct the strains. Without a publicly available deposit of the above vectors or strains, one of ordinary skill in the art could not be assured of the ability to practice the invention as claimed. A suitable deposit for patent purposes is required.

If a deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating (a) that the deposit has been made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty; and (b) that all restrictions imposed by the depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirements. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.808.

If a deposit is not made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then the requirements may be satisfied by an affidavit or declaration by Applicants or someone associated with the patent owner who is in a position to make such assurances, or by a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature, stating that the deposit has been made at an acceptable depository and establishing that the following criteria have been met: (a) during the pendency of the application, access to the deposit will be afforded to one determined by the Commissioner to be entitled thereto; (b) all restrictions imposed by the

depositor on the availability to the public of the deposited material will be irrevocably removed upon the granting of a patent; (c) the deposit will be maintained for a term of at least thirty (30) years and at least five (5) years after the most recent request for the furnishing of a sample of the deposited material; (d) a viability statement in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.807 is provided; and (e) the deposit will be replaced should it become necessary due to inviability, contamination, or loss of capability to function described in the manner in the specification.

In either case, the identifying information set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.809(d) should be added to the specification if it is not already present. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.803-1.809 for additional explanation of these requirements.

9. Claims 54-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 54-78 is indefinite for recitation of "stringent conditions" which is a relative term and it is not clear whether the condition is high, moderate, or low stringency condition for hybridization.

Claims 54-78 are indefinite and confusing because SEQ ID NO:1 and 3 are DNA sequences and the claims are to polypeptide thus it is not clear how a maximal homology alignment can be performed between a DNA sequence and an amino acid sequence.

Claims 54-78 are indefinite and confusing because of the

recitation of "maximal homology alignment". The instructions or algorithm for determining sequence identity is missing from the specification. Furthermore, the metes and bounds of the term "homology" have not been clearly set forth neither in the claims nor in the specification. The precise meaning of "homology" in biology is having a common evolutionary origin" (Reeck et al.; The paper further explains that homology is a concept of quality or type of relationship between two or more things. Thus, amino acids or nucleotide sequences cannot exhibit a particular quantity or level of homology or percent homology. A more appropriate term is "identity." However, it should be noted that quantitative determination of identity requires subjective determinations for sequences compared. Thus, a specific definition of "identity" must be defined taking into considerations such variables as: complete vs partial sequence and gap distances.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 54-77 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Legrain et al.(AS).

Legrain et al. disclose the Tbp2 protein and DNA sequence form Neisseria meningitidis strains B16B6 and M982 (page 74, Results...; page 76, figure 2; page 78, figure 4). Legrain et al. disclose the tryptic peptide fragments of Tbp2 protein (page 74, paragraph bridging the left and right columns).

The examiner has assumed that SEQ ID NO: 1 and 3 should have been directed to the encoding protein amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 2 and 4. Although not called IM2169 and IM2394, the strains M982 and B16B6 are the same. SEQ ID NO: 2 and 4 are identical to the TBP2 amino acid sequences of Legrain et al. (see attached sequence comparisons). The term "derived" is construed to encompass variants and derivatives.

12. Claims 54-76 and 78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Quentin-Millet et al.(AM).

Quentin-Millet et al. disclose the pharmaceutical vaccine

composition comprising Tbp2 protein from Neisseria meningitidis strains 2169 and 2394 (see abstract).

The examiner has assumed that SEQ ID NO: 1 and 3 should have been directed to the encoding protein amino acid of SEQ ID NO: 2 and 4. Although not called IM2169 and IM2394, the strains 2169 and 2394 are the same. The term "derived" is construed to encompass variants and derivatives. The Tbp2 receptor inherently has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and 4 because Tbp2 receptor of Quentin-Millet et al. is the same receptor as claimed.

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Quentin-Millet et al.(AN), Stevenson et al.(AR), and Jacobs et al.(AL), is cumulative reference with Quentin-Millet et al.(AM).

- 14. No claims are allowed.
- 15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael D. Pak whose telephone number is (703) 305-7038. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Walsh, can be

reached on (703) 308-2957. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Michael D. Pak 1812 29 April 1997

STEPHEN WALSH SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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ACCESSIONS REFERENCE #authors

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Legrain, M.; Mazarin, V.; Irwin, S.W.; Bouchon, E.;
Quentin-Millet, M.J.; Jacobs, E.; Schryvers, A.B.
Gene (1993) 130:73-80
Cloning and characterization of Neisseria meningitidis genes
encoding the transferrin-binding proteins Tbpl and Tbp2.
JN0820

ORGANISM DATE

JN0820 #type complete
transferrin-binding protein 2 precursor - Neisseria
meningitidis (strain M982)
#formal_name Neisseria meningitidis
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                                               ##cross-references EMBL:X88870
                                                                        ##residues
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##residues 1-210 ##label ROK
##cross-references EMBL:X88869
##cross-references EMBL:X88869
(Y #length 210 #molecular-weight 22075
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Local Similarity 86.7%;
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   162;
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            Similarity
                                                                                                                                                                                   S61549
22.1%;
larity 81.4%;
Conservative
                                                                                                                   Rokbi, B.; Maitre-Wilmotte, G.; Mazarin, V.
Lissolo, L.; Quentin-Millet, M.J.
FEMS Microbiol. Lett. (1995) 132:277-283
Variable sequences in a mosaic-like domain
                                                                                                                                                                                              #formai_name Neisseria meningitidis
27-Apr-1996 #sequence_revision 27-Apr-1996
27-Apr-1996
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Lissolo, L.; Quentin-Millet, M.;
FEMS Microbiol. Lett. (1995) 132:277-283
Variable sequences in a mosaic-like domain
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Score 1062; DB 16;
Pred. No. 3.00e-164;
14; Mismatches 21;
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Pred. No. 4.02e-190;
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61 61	Db 1 mnnplvn 1 dd	Query Match 100.0%; Best Local Similarity 100.0%; Matches 599; Conservative	SUMMARY	1-20 21-599	CATION	##molecule_ ##residues	##cross-ref	##status ##molecule_ ##residues	g	#journal		ORGANISM DATE	TITLE	RESULT 1
nsgaaygfavklprinahfnpkykekhkplgsmdwkklqrgepnsfserdelekkrgsse 120 	mnnplvnqaamvlpvfllsaclggggsfdldsvetvqdmhskpkyedeksqpesqqdvse 60 	100.0%; Score 4134; DB 7; Length 599; larity 100.0%; Pred. No. 0.00e+00; Conservative 0; Mismatches 0; Indels 0; Gaps 0;	#label MAT #length 599 #molecular-weight 65468 #checksum 382	<pre>#domain signal sequence #status predicted #label SIG\ #product transferrin-binding protein 2 #status predicted</pre>	<pre>tbp2 #superfamily transferrin receptor fron transport; membrane protein; metal binding</pre>	##molecule_type protein 21-34;51-61;158-171;351-361;363-368;378-386;441-456; 564-582 ##label LE1 CS	##cross-references EMBL: 215129 cession PN0633	##Status nucleic acid sequence not shown ##Status DNA Nucleic acid sequence not shown \$\pi_{\pi_{\pi_{\pi_{\pi_{\pi_{\pi_{\pi_	CLODING AND CHARACTERIZATION Of Neisseria meningitidis genes encoding the transferrin-binding proteins Tbp1 and Tbp2. JN0818	Ouentin Millet, M.J.; Jacobs, E.; Schryvers, A.B. Gene (1993) 130:73-80	JN0818; PN0633; S33153	#formal_name Neisseria meningitidis 03-May-1994 #text_change 03-May-1994 #text_change	JN0818 #type complete transferrin-binding protein 2 precursor - Neisseria meningitidis (strain B1686)	

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#molecule_type DNA
#residues 1-593 ##label GER
##cross-references NCBIN:109737; 1
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*#title Characterization of two genes encoding distinct

transferrin-binding proteins in different Actinobacillus

pleuropneumoniae isolates.

#cross-references.MUID:92347999

#contents AP37, serotype 17
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114 KKRGSSELIESKWEDGOSRVVGYINFTYVRSGYVYLNK-NNIDIKNN-IVLF--GPDGYL
               120 gkttsndvyhs--hdsk-rldknrdlkyvrsgyvydgsfneirrndsgfhvfkqgidgyv 176
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                                                                        ldklmepalgyetqilrrnkapktetgekrnervvelsedkitklyqesveiiphldeln 119
                                                                                                     MNNPLVNQAAMVLPVFLLSACLGGGGSFDLDSVETVQDMHS-KPK--YEDEKSQPESQQD 57
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#formal_name Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae
24-Mar-1993 #sequence_revision 18-Nov-1994 #text_change
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                                                                                                                                                           Score 1147; DB 9; 1
Pred. No. 5.50e-186;
153; Mismatches 176;
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##cross-references EMBL:M85274
# length 593 #molecula:
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            ksdngs---vgavfgakrq
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                                                                                                h 27.7%;
Similarity 38.4%;
238; Conservative :
                                                                                                                                                                                                                          Wilson, P. submitted to the EMBL Data Library, March 1992 Characterization of an Actinobacillus pleuropne transferrin-binding protein and its distribut
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Application No.: 591,447

NOTICE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR PATENT APPLICATIONS CONTAINING NUCLEOTIDE SEQUENCE AND/OR AMINO ACID SEQUENCE DISCLOSURES

The nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosure contained in this application does not comply with the requirements for such a disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.821 - 1.825 for the following reason(s):

	1.	This application clearly fails to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.821-1.825. Applicant's attention is directed to these regulations, published at 1114 OG 29, May 15, 1990 and at 55 FR 18230, May 1, 1990.
	2.	This application does not contain, as a separate part of the disclosure on paper copy, a "Sequence Listing" as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.821(c).
	3.	A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has not been submitted as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.821(e).
	4.	A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has been submitted. However, the content of the computer readable form does not comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.822 and/or 1.823, as indicated on the attached copy of the marked-up "Raw Sequence Listing."
	5.	The computer readable form that has been filed with this application has been found to be damaged and/or unreadable as indicated on the attached CRF Diskette Problem Report. A Substitute computer readable form must be submitted as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.825(d).
	6	. The paper copy of the "Sequence Listing" is not the same as the computer readable from of the "Sequence Listing" as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.821(e).
X	7 s	Other: A copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form has been submitted. However, the specification contains sequences not submitted as a copy of the "Sequence Listing" in computer readable form or as a paper copy.
Аp	pl	icant Must Provide:
X	Α	n initial or substitute computer readable form (CRF) copy of the "Sequence Listing".
X		n initial or substitute paper copy of the "Sequence Listing", as well as an amendment directing its entry ito the specification.
X	а	statement that the content of the paper and computer readable copies are the same and, where pplicable, include no new matter, as required by 37 C.F.R. 1.821(e) or 1.821(f) or 1.821(g) or .825(b) or 1.825(d).
Fo	r c	questions regarding compliance to these requirements, please contact:
Fo	r C	Rules Interpretation, call (703) 308-4216 CRF Submission Help, call (703) 308-4212 Patentin software help, call (703) 308-6856

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